

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system and method for generating an animation video signal of sign language gestures corresponding to words in an audio/video signal for display on a monitor screen. A speech component is isolated from the audio/video signal and the spoken words in the speech signal are recognized. The spoken words are then used to identify sign language gestures which are mapped onto an animation model for generating an animation signal. The animation signal is used to animate a character icon stored in the monitor to display sign language gestures corresponding to the words of the speech signal.